This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A mail processing apparatus comprising:

a paper feeding mechanism that is adapted to feed sheets of paper;

a collection bin that is adapted to receive the sheets of paper from the paper feeding mechanism in a stack;

a retrieval mechanism that is configured to remove **[move]** a bottom one of said sheets of paper from the stack; and

a deionizer that is adapted to reduce static electricity in the vicinity of the stack to facilitate removal by the retrieval mechanism of only one of said sheets of paper at a time;

wherein the deionizer is positioned so that the sheets fed by the paper feeding mechanism pass over the deionizer as the sheets are received by the collection bin.

2. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said deionizer comprises a deionizing static bar.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said retrieval mechanism comprises a roller.

5. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said collection bin further comprises at least one foot, said foot for facilitating the removal of only said one sheet by stripping off adjacent sheets from said one sheet.

6. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising a printer that is adapted to print alpha-numeric characters on said sheets prior to said sheets being fed by said paper feeding mechanism.

7. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising a card attachment mechanism for attaching a card to said one sheet.

8. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising a sheet folding mechanism for folding said one sheet.

9. (Original) A method of processing mail, said method comprising:

providing a plurality of sheets of paper;

feeding said sheets of paper sequentially into a collection bin to form a stack, said collection bin comprising a deionizer that is adapted to reduce static electricity in the vicinity of the stack; and

retrieving a bottom one of said sheets of paper from the stack with a retrieval mechanism.

10. (Original) The method as in claim 9 wherein said deionizer comprises a static bar, and wherein said feeding comprises sequentially passing said sheets over said static bar.

11. (Currently amended) A mail processing apparatus comprising:

a track over which paper sheets are adapted to pass in sequence;

a moving mechanism that is adapted to move the sheets along the track; and

an inserting mechanism that is adapted to add an insert to one of the sheets while on the track, wherein the inserting mechanism includes;

a grasping mechanism that is adapted to grasp and move the insert onto the sheet, the grasping mechanism traveling in a first direction prior to grasping the insert and in a second direction to move the insert; and

a nozzle positioned above the track that is adapted to direct a gas stream onto the insert to hold the insert to the sheet, thereby facilitating the passage of the grasping mechanism over both the sheet and the insert when the grasping mechanism is moving in the first direction to grasp **[when grasping]** a subsequent insert for a subsequent sheet.

12. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 11 wherein said inserting mechanism comprises a bin to hold a stack of inserts, and at least one vacuum finger to pull a bottom insert from said stack where it is grasped by said grasping mechanism.

13. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 11 wherein said nozzle is coupled to said grasping mechanism.

14. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 11 wherein said nozzle comprises an elongate slit for directing said gas stream.

15. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 11 wherein said moving mechanism comprises a pair of fingers that move along said track.

16. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 11 further comprising a sensor that is adapted to detect if the insert has been grasped by said grasping mechanism.

17. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 16 wherein said sensor comprises a pressure sensor.

18. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 16 wherein said sensor comprises an optical sensor.

19. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 16 further comprising an indicator that is adapted to indicate if said grasping mechanism fails to grasp said insert.

20. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 19 wherein said indicator further comprises an interrupt circuit coupled to and adapted to stop operation of said moving mechanism and said inserting mechanism, if said grasping mechanism fails to grasp said insert.

21. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 11 further comprising a sensor that is adapted to detect if more than one insert has been grasped by said grasping mechanism.

22. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 21 further comprising an indicator that is adapted to operate if said grasping mechanism grasps more than one said insert.

23. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 22 wherein said indicator further comprises an interrupt circuit coupled to and adapted to stop operation of said moving mechanism and said inserting mechanism, if said grasping mechanism grasps more than one said insert.

24. (Currently amended) A method of processing mail, said method comprising:

passing first and second paper sheets along a track; and

adding an insert to said first sheet, said adding comprising;

grasping said insert with a grasping mechanism;

moving said insert onto said first sheet to form a stack;

releasing said insert from said grasping mechanism; and

holding said insert to said first sheet, said holding comprising directing a gas stream onto said insert, and wherein said holding is adapted to facilitate the passage of the grasping mechanism over the stacked **[both the]** first sheet and **[the]** insert when grasping a subsequent insert for the second sheet.

25. (Original) The method as in claim 24 further comprising sensing whether said grasping mechanism has grasped only one insert using a sensor.

26. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 25 **[24]** further comprising ceasing said passing and adding if said sensor indicates that said grasping mechanism failed to grasp said insert.

27. (Currently amended) The method as in 25 **[24]** further comprising ceasing said passing and adding if said sensor indicates that said grasping mechanism grasped more than one said insert.

28. (Currently amended) A mail processing apparatus comprising;

a track;

an envelope feeder that is adapted to feed an envelope onto the track;

an inserting mechanism that is adapted to place inserts into the envelope; and

a nozzle system that is adapted to direct a gas into the envelope to hold the envelope open for the inserts, wherein the nozzle system comprises;

a central nozzle that is adapted to direct said gas into a central region of the envelope; and

a side nozzle that is adapted to direct said gas near an edge of the envelope;

wherein the central and side nozzles are fixedly coupled together using a fixture in a non-parallel arrangement.

29. (Original) The mail processing apparatus as in claim 28 further comprising a gas adjust nozzle to control a flow rate of said gas through said side nozzle.

Please cancel claim 30.

31. (Currently amended) A method of processing mail, said method comprising;

providing an insert to be placed into an envelope;

feeding the envelope onto a track, said envelope having an opening; and

directing a gas into the opening to hold open the envelope to facilitate receipt of the insert by the envelope, said directing comprising;

directing the gas with a central nozzle in a first direction into a central region of the envelope opening; and

directing the gas with a side nozzle in a second direction near an edge of the envelope opening;

wherein the first and second directions are non-parallel and wherein the central nozzle is larger than the side nozzle.

Please add the following claims:

--32. (New) The apparatus as in claim 11 further comprising a deflector adapted to deflect the insert from the grasping mechanism and towards the sheet.

33. (New) The apparatus as in claim 32 wherein the nozzle is coupled to the deflector.

34. (New) The method as in claim 24 wherein releasing the insert comprises moving the insert to engage a deflector to help separate the insert from the grasping mechanism.

35. (New) The apparatus as in claim 28 wherein the central nozzle directs a greater gas volume into the envelope than the side nozzle.